

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19. These sheets, which include FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19 replace the original sheets including FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19.

In FIG. 1 the symbol near the words "MAJOR AXIS" has been removed and replaced with the word "Length". The symbol near the words "MINOR AXIS" has been removed and replaced with the word "Width".

In FIG. 2, a bracket and a reference numeral 124 have been added. Reference numerals 111 and 119 have been moved and their corresponding lead lines extended so that they are no longer within the drawing.

In FIG. 3, reference numeral 214 has been moved and its lead line extended so that it is no longer within the drawing.

In FIG. 4, reference numeral 314 has been moved and its lead line extended so that it is no longer within the drawing.

In FIG. 8, reference numeral 324 has been moved and its lead line extended so that it is no longer within the drawing.

In FIG. 9, reference numeral 772 has been moved and its lead line extended so that it is no longer within the drawing. The line at which the cross-sectional view of FIG. 14 is taken has been relabelled as C-C'.

In FIG. 17, a bracket and reference numeral 800 has been added.

In FIG. 18, a bracket and reference numeral 900 has been added. A reference numeral 971 and corresponding lead line has also been added.

In FIG. 19, reference numeral 1100 has been moved and a bracket has been added. Reference numeral 400 has been replaced with reference numeral 300.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The above amendments are made in response to the Office action of July 13, 2006. The Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 12, 14, 16, 25 and 26 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in cancelled claim 11. Support for the amendment to claim 3 may be found at least in FIG. 2. Support for the amendment to claim 4 may be found in at least FIG. 2. Support for the amendment to claim 12 may be found in at least claim 2. Support for the amendment to claim 14 may be found in at least FIGS. 9, 17, 18 and 19. Support for the amendment to claim 16 may be found at least in FIG. 18. Support for the amendment to claim 25 may be found at least in claim 2 and FIGS. 9, 13, 14 and 15. Support for the amendment to claim 26 may be found in at least FIGS. 3 and 4.

Claim 11 has been canceled. New Claims 28, 29 and 30 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found in at least in FIGS. 2, 8 and 9. Claims 1-10, 12-30 are pending in the present application.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to for various reasons. Applicants have amended the drawings as described above. In response to the Examiner's statement that reference numeral 855 of FIG. 16 is not mentioned in the Specification, the Applicants respectfully draw the Examiner's attention to page 17, line 19 of the present application where reference numeral 855 is addressed as an inverter in reference to FIGS. 16 and 17.

Applicants respectfully request that in light of the above amendments and remarks the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Specification

The specification was objected to for various reasons. Applicants have amended the specification as described above, including the addition of an Abstract of the Disclosure. Applicants respectfully request that in light of the above amendments the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 was objected to for informalities. Applicants have corrected the informalities in claim 4 by changing the word “lamb” on line 2 to “lamp”.

Claim 16 was objected to for informalities. Applicants have corrected the informalities in claim 16 by changing the phrase “the lamp is inserted into between” to “the lamp is inserted between”.

Applicants respectfully request that in light of the present amendments the objections to claims 4 and 16 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single source must contain all of the elements of the claim. *Lewmar Marine v. Barient, Inc.*, 827 F.2d 744, 747, 3 U.S.P.Q.2d 1766, 1768 (Fed. Cir. 1987), *cert denied*, 484 U.S. 1007 (1988). Moreover, the single source must disclose all of the claimed elements “arranged as in the claim.” *Structural Rubber Prods. Co. v. Park Rubber Co.*, 749 F.2d 707, 716, 223 U.S.P.Q. 1264, 1274 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Missing elements may not be supplied by the knowledge of one skilled in the art or the disclosure of another reference. *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 780, 227 U.S.P.Q. 773, 777 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Hisashi

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hisashi (Japanese Patent No. 03-210750, hereinafter “Hisashi”). The Examiner has stated that Hisashi discloses all of the elements of claims 1-11.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia, a lamp comprising...a plurality of electrodes..., wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member.*

Hisashi is directed to a flat fluorescent lamp. Hisashi discloses an elongated tubular bulb 12 with an elliptical cross-section including a major axis and a minor axis, the major axis substantially in parallel with a light incident surface of an LCD panel, a fluorescent film 14 coating an inner surface of the bulb 12 with different thicknesses, and

a set of electrodes 13a and 13b shaped as end caps to the tubular bulb 12. (See FIGS. 2 and 3, and the Abstract). Hisashi does not disclose **a lamp body having a tubular shape, a cross-section of the lamp body including a major axis and a minor axis, the major axis substantially in parallel with a light incident surface of an LCD panel; and a plurality of electrodes applying discharge voltage to the lamp body, wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member** as claimed in independent claim 1 of the present invention.

Thus, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated by Hisashi. Claims 2-10 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and thus include all the limitations of claim 1. It is thus believed that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given for independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable. Claim 11 has been cancelled rendering the rejections to that claim moot.

Claim 3, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 1, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Hisashi does not disclose that **the electrodes comprise a first internal electrode disposed in the lamp body, and a second electrode disposed opposite to the first internal electrode, the first and second internal electrodes including a first and a second lead wire respectively, and a portion of each of the lead wires is protruded out of the lamp body** as recited in claim 3.

Claim 5, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 1, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the flowing reasons. Hisashi does not disclose that **the electrodes comprise conductive plate shapes having a band shape arranged substantially in parallel with each other in a longitudinal direction relative to the lamp body** as recited in claim 5. In fact, Hisashi teaches away from the claimed features by disclosing a set of electrodes 13a and 13b shaped as end caps to the tubular bulb 12.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-10 as being anticipated by Hisashi under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Yasuo

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasuo (Japanese Patent No. 08-110507, hereinafter “Yasuo”). The Examiner has stated that Yasuo discloses all of the elements of claims 1-11.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, *a lamp comprising...a plurality of electrodes..., wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member.*

Yasuo is directed to a back light device. Yasuo discloses a backlight device including a flat fluorescent lamp 1 including an elongated tubular glass valve having an elliptical cross-section along its longitudinal axis, a pair of bases 3, and a set of power feed terminals 4 to be plugged into a printed circuit board 8. (See FIG. 1 and the Abstract). Yasuo does not disclose **a lamp body having a tubular shape, a cross-section of the lamp body including a major axis and a minor axis, the major axis substantially in parallel with a light incident surface of an LCD panel; and a plurality of electrodes applying discharge voltage to the lamp body, wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member** as claimed in independent claim 1 of the present invention.

Thus, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated by Yasuo. Claims 2-10 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and thus include all the limitations of claim 1. It is thus believed that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given for independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable. Claim 11 has been cancelled rendering the rejections to that claim moot.

Claim 3, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 1, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Yasuo does not disclose that **the electrodes comprise a first internal electrode disposed in the lamp body, and a second electrode disposed opposite to the first internal electrode, the first and second internal electrodes including a first and a second lead wire respectively, and a portion of each of the lead wires is protruded out of the lamp body** as recited in claim 3.

Claim 5, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 1, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not

anticipated for the flowing reasons. Yasuo does not disclose that **the electrodes comprise conductive plate shapes having a band shape arranged substantially in parallel with each other in a longitudinal direction relative to the lamp body** as recited in claim 5.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1 and 3-10 as being anticipated by Yasuo under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Tsuneo

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuneo (Japanese Patent No. 06-203796, hereinafter “Tsuneo”). The Examiner has stated that Tsuneo discloses all of the elements of claims 1-3.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, *a lamp comprising...a plurality of electrodes..., wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member.*

Tsuneo is directed to a light source and a display device using the light source. Tsuneo discloses a light source including a two glass plates 1 and 2, which are coated with a phosphorous substance 3 and 4, and then sealed together with a seal material leaving openings 9 and 10, corresponding to electrodes 5a, 5b, 6a and 6b, to be filled with a conductive resin 11 and 12 with lead wires 13 and 14 protruding therefrom. (See FIGS. 1A, 1B and 1C and the Abstract). Tsuneo does not disclose **a lamp body having a tubular shape, a cross-section of the lamp body including a major axis and a minor axis, the major axis substantially in parallel with a light incident surface of an LCD panel; and a plurality of electrodes applying discharge voltage to the lamp body, wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member** as claimed in independent claim 1 of the present invention.

Thus, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated by Tsuneo. Claims 2 and 3 depend directly from claim 1, and thus include all the limitations of claim 1. It is thus believed that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given for independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-3 as being anticipated by Tsuneo under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Noriyuki

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Noriyuki (Japanese Patent No. 08-185826, hereinafter “Noriyuki”). The Examiner has stated that Noriyuki discloses all of the elements of claims 1-3.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, *a lamp comprising...a plurality of electrodes..., wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member.*

Noriyuki is directed to a flat plate type low-pressure discharge lamp system. Noriyuki discloses a discharge lamp 1 including a discharge container 2 having a rectangular cross section and a pair of hot cathodes 3b at both ends of the discharge container 2 (See FIG. 1 and the Abstract). Noriyuki does not disclose **a lamp body having a tubular shape, a cross-section of the lamp body including a major axis and a minor axis, the major axis substantially in parallel with a light incident surface of an LCD panel; and a plurality of electrodes applying discharge voltage to the lamp body, wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member** as claimed in independent claim 1 of the present invention.

Thus, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated by Noriyuki. Claims 2 and 3 depend directly from claim 1, and thus include all the limitations of claim 1. It is thus believed that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given for independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-3 as being anticipated by Noriyuki under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Van den Bogert, et al.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Den Bogert, et al. (European Patent No. 0-329-226, hereinafter “Van den Bogert”). The Examiner has stated that Van den Bogert discloses all of the elements of claims 1-4.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, *a lamp comprising...a plurality of electrodes..., wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member.*

Van den Bogert is directed to a low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp. Van den Bogert discloses a lamp including a discharge vessel 21, two glass plates 22 and 23 with walls 24-27 joining the two plates 22 and 23 along their edges. The lamp of Van den Bogert also includes electrodes 28 and 29 disposed on opposing sides of the discharge vessel 21. (See FIGS. 1-3, Columns 1-5). Van den Bogert does not disclose a **lamp body having a tubular shape, a cross-section of the lamp body including a major axis and a minor axis, the major axis substantially in parallel with a light incident surface of an LCD panel; and a plurality of electrodes applying discharge voltage to the lamp body, wherein the electrodes are electrically insulated from each other by an insulating member** as claimed in independent claim 1 of the present invention.

Thus, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated by Van den Bogert. Claims 2-4 depend directly from claim 1, and thus include all the limitations of claim 1. It is thus believed that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given for independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-4 as being anticipated by Van den Bogert under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Nishiyama

Claims 12-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,331,064, hereinafter “Nishiyama”). The Examiner has stated that Nishiyama discloses all of the elements of claims 12-27.

Applicants have amended claims 12 and 25 to recite, *inter alia, a plurality of lamps including a lamp body that has a rectangular longitudinal cross section.*

Nishiyama is directed to a back light device. Nishiyama discloses a backlight unit including a lower resin frame 500, a reflector 36, a plurality of tubular discharge tubes 35, and multiple electrodes 35c and 35d. (See FIGS. 4, 5 and 6A). Nishiyama does not disclose, teach or suggest a **plurality of lamps including a lamp body having a rectangular longitudinal cross section and a plurality of electrodes having first and second electrodes disposed on the lamp body, a cross-section of the lamp body including a major axis substantially parallel with the light incident surface and a**

minor axis as claimed in independent claims 12 and 25 of the present invention.

Thus, claims 12 and 25 are believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated by Nishiyama. Claims 13-24 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12, and thus include all the limitations of claim 12. Claims 26 and 27 depend directly on claim 25, and thus include all the limitations of claim 25. It is thus believed that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given for independent claims 12 and 25, which are believed to be allowable.

Claim 13, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 12, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Nishiyama does not disclose, teach or suggest **an insulating member protecting the first and second electrodes** as recited in claim 13.

Claim 17, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 12, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the flowing reasons. Nishiyama does not disclose, teach or suggest **the receiving container further includes a receiving block disposed along inner surfaces of the sidewall of the receiving container, and the receiving block supports a light diffusion plate with the receiving block** as recited in claim 17. Therefore, claims 18, 19 and 20, which are dependent from claim 17, are also additionally patentably distinct and not anticipated by Nishiyama.

Claim 24, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 12, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Nishiyama does not disclose, teach or suggest **the first and second conducting parts comprise first and second clips connected to the first and second electrodes** as recited in claim 24.

Claim 26, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 25, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Nishiyama does not disclose, teach or suggest **the first and second electrodes have a band shape arranged substantially in parallel with each other, the electrodes formed on outer surface of the lamp body** as recited in claim 26.

Claim 27, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as

being dependent from claim 25, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Nishiyama does not disclose, teach or suggest the **first conducting part comprises a plurality of first connecting electrodes connected to the first electrode and a first common electrode connected to the first connecting electrodes, the first common electrode secured with the receiving block, and the second conducting part comprises a plurality of second connecting electrodes connected to the second electrode and a second common electrode connected to the second connecting electrodes, the second common electrode spaced apart from the first conducting part to be secured with the receiving block** as recited in claim 26.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 12-27 as being anticipated by Nishiyama under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Moon

Claims 12-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Moon (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0141183, hereinafter “Moon”). The Examiner has stated that Moon discloses all of the elements of claims 12-27.

Applicants have amended claims 12 and 25 to recite, *inter alia, a plurality of lamps including a lamp body that has a rectangular longitudinal cross section.*

Moon is directed to a back light device. Moon discloses a backlight unit including a plurality of lower supporting parts 91a-91c, two lower holders 41a and 41b opposite two upper holders 43a and 43b, each holder having inner conductive layers 47a and 47c or 47b and 47d with light emitting lamps 31 disposed therebetween. (See FIGS. 3A-9B). Moon does not disclose, teach or suggest a **plurality of lamps including a lamp body having a rectangular longitudinal cross section and a plurality of electrodes having first and second electrodes disposed on the lamp body, a cross-section of the lamp body including a major axis substantially parallel with the light incident surface and a minor axis** as claimed in independent claims 12 and 25 of the present invention.

Thus, claims 12 and 25 are believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated by Moon. Claims 13-24 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12, and thus include all the limitations of claim 12. Claims 26 and 27 depend directly on claim 25, and thus include all the limitations of claim 25. It is thus believed that the dependent claims are

allowable for at least the reasons given for independent claims 12 and 25, which are believed to be allowable.

Claim 13, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 12, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Moon does not disclose, teach or suggest **an insulating member protecting the first and second electrodes** as recited in claim 13.

Claim 17, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 12, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Moon does not disclose, teach or suggest **the receiving container further includes a receiving block disposed along inner surfaces of the sidewall of the receiving container, and the receiving block supports a light diffusion plate with the receiving block** as recited in claim 17. Therefore, claims 18, 19 and 20, which are dependent from claim 17, are also additionally patentably distinct and not anticipated by Moon.

Claim 24, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 12, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Moon does not disclose, teach or suggest **the first and second conducting parts comprise first and second clips connected to the first and second electrodes** as recited in claim 24.

Claim 26, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 25, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Moon does not disclose, teach or suggest **the first and second electrodes have a band shape arranged substantially in parallel with each other, the electrodes formed on outer surface of the lamp body** as recited in claim 26.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 12-27 as being anticipated by Moon under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Kim

Claims 12-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kim (Korean Patent Publication No. 1020020071355, hereinafter “Kim”). The Examiner has stated that Kim discloses all of the elements of claims 12-27.

Applicants have amended claims 12 and 25 to recite, *inter alia, a plurality of lamps including a lamp body that has a rectangular longitudinal cross section.*

Kim is directed to a back light for a display device. Kim discloses a backlight unit including a plurality of lamps 4, each lamp 4 having a glass tube 2 and a surrounding outer electrode 16 at each end of the glass tube. The backlight unit further includes support elements 6 and 8 in which the ends of the lamps having the outer electrodes are placed. (See FIGS. 1 and 2, and the Abstract). Kim does not disclose, teach or suggest a **plurality of lamps including a lamp body having a rectangular longitudinal cross section and a plurality of electrodes having first and second electrodes disposed on the lamp body, a cross-section of the lamp body including a major axis substantially parallel with the light incident surface and a minor axis** as claimed in independent claims 12 and 25 of the present invention.

Thus, claims 12 and 25 are believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated by Kim. Claims 13-24 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12, and thus include all the limitations of claim 12. Claims 26 and 27 depend directly on claim 25, and thus include all the limitations of claim 25. It is thus believed that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given for independent claims 12 and 25, which are believed to be allowable.

Claim 13, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 12, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Kim does not disclose, teach or suggest an **insulating member protecting the first and second electrodes** as recited in claim 13.

Claim 24, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 12, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Kim does not disclose, teach or suggest the **first and second conducting parts comprise first and second clips connected to the first and second electrodes** as recited in claim 24.

Claim 26, in addition to being patentably distinct for the reasons stated above as being dependent from claim 25, is also believed to be patentably distinct and not anticipated for the following reasons. Kim does not disclose, teach or suggest **the first and second electrodes have a band shape arranged substantially in parallel with each other, the electrodes formed on outer surface of the lamp body** as recited in claim 26.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 12-27 as being anticipated by Kim under 35 U.S.C. §102(a).

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, the present application including claims 1-10 and 12-30 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections. If there are any charges due with respect to this response, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' Attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Jae Y. Park
Jae Y. Park
Limited Recognition No. L0077
Confirmation No. 3659
Cantor Colburn LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Customer No. 23413
Telephone: (860) 286-2929
Fax: (860) 286-0115

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